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Alaska Department of Fish & Game

NEWS

December 9, 2005

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOOSE SEASON CLOSURE

at

Nunatak Bench in Unit 5A

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Douglas is announcing an early closure to the registration permit moose hunt (RM059) in unit 5A for that area south of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, north and east of Russell and Nunatak Fiords, and east of the east side of the East Nunatak Glacier to the Canadian Border (locally referred to as Nunatak Bench). An aerial survey was conducted of this area on December 4, 2005, and only 14 moose were observed. A follow up survey on December 5 confirmed this low number of animals.

The average annual moose count at Nunatak since 1994 has been 34 moose, giving us an estimated population of about 50 animals as called for in our management plan. Given the low number of moose seen during the most recent surveys, we consider any harvest to be detrimental to this moose herd. Therefore, an emergency order (01-08-05) is being issued to close the moose hunting season at Nunatak Bench @ 11:59 pm, Saturday, 10 December 2005.

Hunters are reminded that with this closure, the only moose hunt remaining open in Unit 5 is RM062 in Unit 5B, and that season ends on December 15, 2005.

If you have any questions about this News Release, please call Neil Barten at the Douglas ADF&G office, @ 465-4267.

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